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Torrey & Gray think Purslane introduced, though possibly indigenous on the Missouri. Prof. Tuckerman, in a note to Josselyn, p. 81 (51 orig.), says of "Wild Purcelaine" (*Portulaca oleracea*, L.): "Considered to have been introduced here; but our author enables us to carry back the date of its introduction, without reasonable doubt to the first settlement of the country." Prof. Tuckerman puts a certain confidence in Josselyn's botanical knowledge, which he finds difficult to extend to the earlier writers. But in the case of so marked, and to us at least so familiar, a plant as Purslane, we may perhaps accept the repeated testimony to its abundant presence at a very early period. Champlain was half a century before Josselyn; and so was Strachey in Virginia, who names "purselin" among the herbs dispersed through the woods, good for broths and salads" (*Travaile into Virginia*, p. 120). Sagard also, in 1623 or '24, found the "pourpier, on pourceleine" in the country of the Hurons, and remarked that they made "tres peu d'estat" of it, though it grew "naturellement dans leurs champs labouriez, parmy le bled et les citrouilles" (*Hist. du Canada*, 782).

As regards the Indian cultivation of beans, it is impossible from the description given by explorers in the 16th century to identify varieties or species, and there exist no wild species in the Eastern United States which would seem to answer the description. It is certain, however, that early in that century, beans were cultivated as far north as the St. Lawrence, that the varieties of American beans observed by the early voyagers (before 1600) were regarded as "proper to the country," and that they were so regarded by the botanists of Europe (e. g. Clusius, and Lobel); that the northern Algonquins of New England and the Middle States had at least one, and probably two varieties of climbing (pole) beans. A Massachusetts name for beans was *tuppuhquamash*, and the corresponding Abnaki, *a'teba'kouar*,—both apparently derived from a verb meaning 'to twine,' 'to wind about,' and thereby characterizing the plants as climbers. Prof. Tuckerman is inclined to think that Josselyn has mainly in view *Phaseolus vulgaris*, L. (*Joss.* p. 89, 59 orig.), a plant whose origin is unknown, "but for which in the West Indies we have old authority (see Gerard's Herbal, late editions), and De Soto (1542) speaks of the "kidney beans cultivated by the aboriginals of Florida" (*Pickering's Races of Man*, p. 396)," (Tuckerman in lit.) Dr. Trumbull thinks the American bean figured and described by Cornuti, pp. 184, 5 could not have been *P. multiflorus*, L., as the seeds were "subrotundi et nigri."

§ 89. Publications.—1. *Contributions to American Botany*, VI., by Sereno Watson, from the Proc. Am. Acad., Vol. XI., Feb. 1876. I. On the Flora of Guadalupe Island, Lower California. This island in lat. 29° north, and about one hundred miles from the coast of Lower California, is now overrun by goats. What is left of its flora, as appears from the collections made with great exertion by the indefatigable Dr. Palmer, points to a flora similar to that of California. . . . and the presence of many South American types suggests some other connection between these distant regions than now exists, and even that the peculiarities of the wes-

tern flora of both continents had a common origin in an ancient flora which prevailed over a wide and now submerged area. II. List of a collection of Plants from Guadalupe Island, made by Dr. Edward Palmer, with his Notes. III. Descriptions of New Species of Plants, chiefly Californian, with Revisions of certain Genera, viz.: Trifolium, 39 species; Lathyrus, 13 species; Megarrhiza, 5 species; Peucedanum, 20 species.—2. *The American Naturalist*, April, contains among its botanical matter Mr. Watson's contribution on the flora of Guadalupe Island mentioned above, and the results of Mr. L. H. Ward's investigations of the eccentricity of the pith of *Rhus Toxicodendron*, (Vid. BULLETIN, VI., p. 47). Mr. Ward concludes that there is a relation between the thickening of the stem and the development of the rootlets. He does not seem to have studied Ampelopsis.—3. In the *American Journal of Science and Arts* for March are a number of interesting notices by Dr. Gray, e. g. of Dr. Engelmann's Notes on Agave, of Duval-Jouve's Structure of the leaves of Grasses, *Gymnocladus* in China, *Das Haustorium der Loranthaceen*. The writer of the latter states that the vascular bundles of the parasites communicate with those of the plants on which they are growing. *Pilostyles Thurberi*, A Gray, must be an interesting study.—4. Harvard University has issued its Prospectus of *Summer Instruction in Science* for 1876. The courses in Phænogamic and Cryptogamic Botany will begin July 7th, and continue six weeks. Applications should be made before June 1st, for the former, to Prof. G. L. Goodale, Cambridge, Mass.; for the latter to Prof. W. G. Farlow, 6, St. James' Ave., Boston, Mass.—5. Hurd & Houghton purpose issuing *Wild Flowers of North America*, illustrations by Isaac Sprague, text by Prof. Geo. L. Goodale. The work will be expensive but will no doubt be done in the best manner.

§ 90. *Asplenium Felix-fæmina*, Bernh. *Var. laciniatum*, Moore.—Some time last August Miss Eliza Hosmer, of Concord, Mass., while on a visit to Red Bank, N. J., sent me two very peculiar fern fronds, not fruited, which at the time I could not clearly identify. Recently I have become satisfied that they belong to the above-named variety of English authors, and as it has not before been discovered here, and has the best claim to be considered a variety of any form of that protean species, I think it would be well to make a note of the discovery. GEO. E. DAVENPORT.

Boston, March 24th.

§ 91. *Acanthospermum xanthoides*, DC.—This plant is abundant in the streets of Aiken and Augusta, having appeared within the past ten or twelve years—supposed to be brought from South America in wool for the Augusta factories. H. W. R.

ERRATA.—§ 83, l. 7, for "first" read "foot": p. 82, l. 24, for "1875" read "1851".

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